

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 3, 9, 10, 12, 15, 18, 21 and 22 are indicated as objected to, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including the subject matter of respective intervening claims. In order to expedite allowance of subject matter that is clearly agreed to be allowable, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 15, and independent claim 16 has been amendment to include the limitation of claim 21. Thus, the independent claims and all dependent claims are now in condition for allowance. Claims 14, 15, 20 and 21 were canceled without prejudice, their limitations having been now included in independent claims. In addition, new claims 24-28 have been added and correspond to rewritten claims 3, 9, 10, 12 and 18, respectively.

By way of the above, the applicants make no admission with respect to the Examiner's claim rejections, and applicants reserve the right to re-file the original claims or similar claims in a related application without any negative implication or other prejudice to the scope of such claims.

In light of all of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in order for allowance, and prompt allowance is earnestly requested. Should any issues remain

outstanding, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record so that the case may proceed expeditiously to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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